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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for building a search query in a data
5 processing system having a graphical user interface,
comprising the steps of:
- responsive to user input, dropping a graphical
component representing a first system object onto a
graphical component representing a query function;
10 presenting a set of attributes of the first system
object; and
- responsive to user selection, creating a search
query from the selected set of attributes.
- 15 2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising
the step of using the search query to assemble a set of
system objects having attributes similar to the selected
set of attributes.
- 20 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI)
subsystem attribute.
4. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising
25 the step of defining a search scope for assembling the
set of system objects.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first
system object represents the data processing system in a
30 distributed computing environment.

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6. A system, comprising:

a bus system

an input device connected to the bus system;

5 a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the
memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit, responsive to user input
from the input device, executes the set of instructions
to drop a graphical component representing a first system
10 object onto a graphical component representing a query
function, the processing unit presents a set of
attributes of the first system object, and responsive to
user selection from the input device, the processing unit
creates a search query from the selected set of
15 attributes.

7. A system for building a search query in a data
processing system having a graphical user interface,
comprising:

20 dropping means, responsive to user input, for
dropping a graphical component representing a first
system object onto a graphical component representing a
query function;

presenting means for presenting a set of attributes
25 of the first system object; and

creating means, responsive to user selection, for
creating a search query from the selected set of
attributes.

30 8. The system as recited in claim 7, further comprising
using means for using the search query to assemble a set

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of system objects having attributes similar to the selected set of attributes.

9. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the
5 subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI) subsystem attribute.

10. The system as recited in claim 8, further comprising
10 defining means for defining a search scope for assembling the set of system objects.

11. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the first
15 system object represents the data processing system in a distributed computing environment.

12. A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for building a search query in a data processing
system having a graphical user interface, comprising:
instructions, responsive to user input, for dropping
20 a graphical component representing a first system object
onto a graphical component representing a query function;
instructions for presenting a set of attributes of
the first system object; and
instructions, responsive to user selection, for
25 creating a search query from the selected set of
attributes.

13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12,
further comprising instructions for using the search
30 query to assemble a set of system objects having
attributes similar to the selected set of attributes.

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14. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI) subsystem attribute.

- 5 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, further comprising instructions for defining a search scope for assembling the set of system objects.

- 10 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the first system object represents the data processing system in a distributed computing environment.

FOOTNOTES: 62825860